

02/03/23

CHRISTOPHER PD.

CHRISTOPHER POLICE DEPT.

Employee Notice

Employee Information

Employee Name:
Andrew Trogolo

Date:

Job Title:
Patrolman

Employee ID: 124

Department:
Police

Manager:

Type of Warning

☐ First Warning ☒ Second Warning ☐ Final Warning

Type of Offenses

☐ Tardiness/Leaving Early
☒ Substandard Work
☐ Absenteeism
☐ Violation of Safety Rules
☐ Violation of Company Policies
☐ Rudeness to Customers/Coworkers
☒ Other: Dereliction of Duty

Details

Description of Infraction: Failed to respond to calls 04:25 Suspicious Activity. Called in by the Mayor of Christopher. Call # 2023-272

06:21 Loud Noise Complaint South Thomas Call # 2023-273 Patrolman Trogolo, At the time, of the call was at Circle K. Never checked the area, Did not leave Circle K until 06:51.

Plan for Improvement:

Consequences of Further Infractions:

Acknowledgment of Receipt of Warnings

By signing this form, you confirm that you understand the information in this warning. You also confirm that you and your manager have discussed the warning and a plan for improvement. Signing this form does not necessarily indicate that you agree with this warning.

Employee Signature

Date

02/20/23

02/04/23

CHRISTOPHER POLICE DEPARTMENT

208 NORTH THOMAS STREET
CHRISTOPHER, ILLINOIS, 62822
(618) 727-4040

February 23, 2023

I am writing this letter as a response to be attached to an "Employee Notice" received on 02/20/2023. I can only assume the notice is a form of written complaint to be placed into my employee file. The notice accuses me of "substandard work" in response to two different calls for service on 02/03/2023. The first call for service is documented as CPD Case Number 2023-0272. This call was for a complaint for suspicious activity. The notice indicates that I failed to respond to the call. The reality is that I was in the area of the call within approximately seven minutes and observed none of the activity reported. This is indicated in the CAD notes and my department narrative. The only vehicle I did observe in the area was that of Mayor Gary Bartolotti's truck, which I observed commit a traffic infraction at the intersection of South State Street and 4th Street. No other vehicles or pedestrians were observed in the area. The notice also indicates the call was "called in" by Mayor Bartolotti, when the CAD information states he walked into Central Dispatch on foot. I have also been advised that Mayor Bartolotti has recounted various versions of the events, each inconsistent with the last. I honestly feel this call was fabricated in order for Mayor Bartolotti to locate and follow me.

The second issue raised in the notice was a lack of response to CPD Case Number 2023-0273. The call for service was in regards to a "banging" noise on South Thomas Street. Due to the time and nature of the complaint I informed Central Dispatch that it was most likely the garbage collection service creating the noise, as it was trash collection day in that part of town. At the time I was conversing with another city official and other law enforcement officers. At the conclusion of our conversation I proceeded to the area and confirmed the presence of garbage collection trucks in the area. No other suspicious noises or activities were observed. I left the area just in time to return to the Christopher police Department and clock out at the end of my shift. Again, this is indicated in the CAD narrative and my departmental narrative.

This most disturbing aspect of this situation is Mayor Bartolotti's obsession with me. The first "notice" I received in my file came more than a month after the alleged violation of "insubordination". This stemmed from a verbal confrontation between Mayor Bartolotti and myself at Central Dispatch. I feel the true reason for the notice was the fact that I had just placed several political signs in my yard endorsing Republican candidates. I honestly believe Mayor Bartolotti was using the disciplinary action against me in an attempt to suppress my First Amendment rights. I suspect this second delayed notice is in response to me suggesting action against the Mayor for joking about another employee's duty related injury. It was brought to my attention, as the union steward, that Mayor Bartolotti was overheard making a tasteless and disturbing joke regarding an employee who had recently filed a workman's compensation claim. I suggested that the issue may be brought to the attention of the Fraternal Order of Police or possibly the Illinois Labor Relations Board. All employees who approached me declined for fear of retaliation.

That fear stems from a toxic work environment fostered by our mayor. I have dared to speak out against Mayor Bartolotti, including criticizing his actions in writing to the Christopher City Council, and have since fallen victim to his attempts to bully and intimidate me. Along with being "written up",

I am routinely followed by Mayor Bartolotti. Various citizens, other city officials, and fellow law enforcement officers have witnessed this and reported it to me. I have also had more than one neighbor point out that the mayor makes frequent trips past my house. The situation causes me undue stress and emotional anguish. I am unsure if his efforts are an attempt to gather more fictitious fodder for future write ups? Some other form of sinister torment? I feel as though I not only have to be wary of the citizens I deal with and the various traffic hazards; but now my employer as well.

Andrew Trogolo